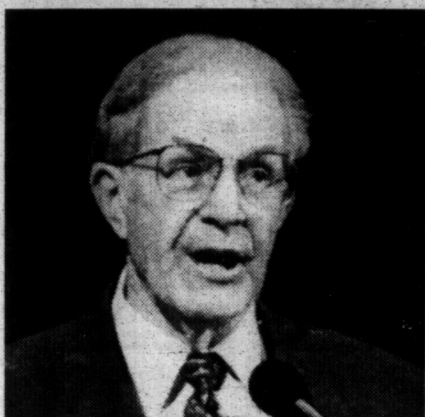


# The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, November 9, 1995

Published Since 1877



Roy Fish, professor  
Southwestern Seminary



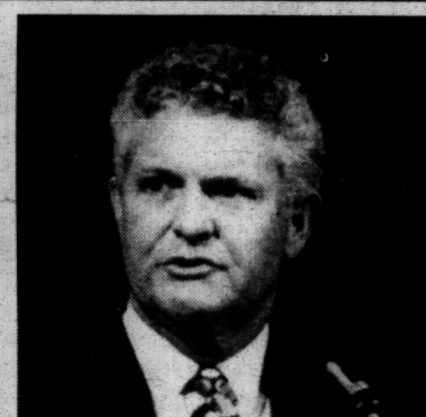
Steve Bennett, pastor  
Colonial Hills Church, Southaven



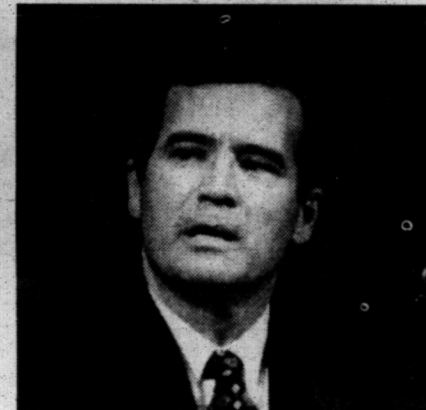
## State Baptists gather for 160th session

Messengers to the 160th annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Oct. 31-Nov. 1 at First Church, Jackson, vote on one of 14 resolutions presented for their consideration. The 1,635 messengers

who registered at the meeting was down from 1,870 messengers who registered for the meeting in 1994. See inside pages for details. (Photos by William H. Perkins Jr.)



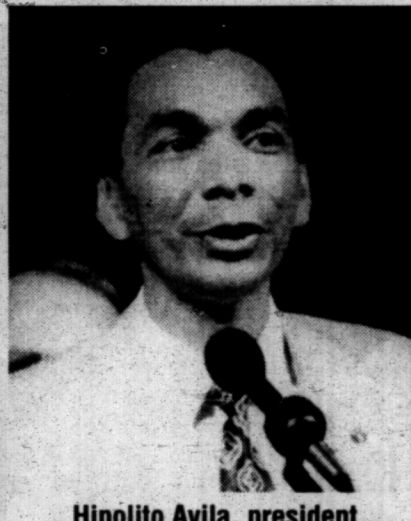
Jimmy Porter, pastor  
First Church, McComb



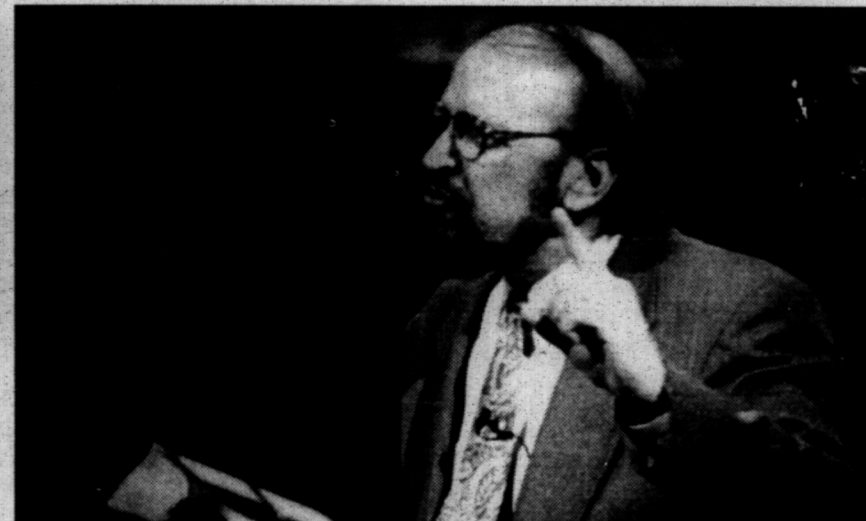
Dean Register, pastor  
Temple Church, Hattiesburg



Tony Evans, pastor, Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship, Dallas



Hipolito Avila, president  
Venezuela Baptist Convention



Calvin Miller, professor, Southwestern Seminary

### Instant prayer

For well over a century, the only way for many foreign missionaries to communicate prayer needs was to put a letter on a slow boat to America and hope for the best. CompassionNet, a worldwide electronic prayer network launched earlier this year by the Foreign Mission Board (FMB) through SBCNet, now allows missionaries to transmit prayer requests in the blink of an eye from almost anywhere in the world. "God has given us the tools to link the world instantly so the gospel can be preached in power to every nation," said Randy Sprinkle, director of FMB's international prayer strategy office. Planners were convinced CompassionNet would be successful after reviewing data from the Foreign Missions Prayer Line, a phone-in prayer service currently averaging more than 15,000 calls each month. The Prayer Line — (800) 395-PRAY — is limited to one brief message per caller, Sprinkle said, while CompassionNet offers an immediate, comprehensive list of prayer requests from every area of the world. For information on how to access CompassionNet through SBCNet, call (800) 325-7749.

### Attitude adjustment

It's understandably difficult for church secretaries to maintain a rosy attitude all the time, according to Brooks Faulkner, manager of church ministry at the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville. "When every day you have as many bosses as you have church members, it's tough to 'be subject to all rulers and authorities,'" he said. Since church secretaries must be all things to all people, Faulkner offered the following tips:

- You have to learn where your breaking point is, and you have to say 'no' before you reach that point. Say, "I can't get this done until..." Tell that to them before you explode.
- It's amazing how easy it is to put people down when you get angry and overloaded with stress. Try to be peaceable and considerate and show true humility toward all men.
- Grace is an unmerited favor. Treat people like that.
- Let the Holy Spirit be operative in your life. Stay clear of sarcasm and cynicism.
- "I may be wrong" is the hardest thing to say in the English language: Learn to say, "I could be wrong; you could be right."

### Looking Back...

#### 10 years ago

Tylertown native James L. Sullivan, former Southern Baptist Convention president and executive director of the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville for 23 years, is recognized at the Mississippi Baptist Convention as Clergyman of the Century.

#### 20 years ago

Parkway Church, Jackson, is listed by *Christian Life* magazine as having the fastest-growing Sunday School program among churches belonging to 12 major denominations in Mississippi, based on the recently-concluded church year.

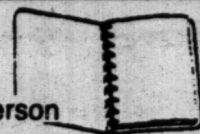
#### 50 years ago

Mr. and Mrs. W.W. Bullock of Columbia establish a trust fund for foreign mission work with the Mississippi Baptist Foundation in honor of their son Truett, a B-24 Liberator pilot killed in action just months before the end of World War II.



## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson



## A convention of purpose

You may not wish to call it three days of glory, but still there were high hours at the Oct. 31-Nov. 1 gathering of Mississippi Baptists in Jackson.

The Pastor's Conference, the missions activities, and the convention itself lifted high our statement of purpose. Why do we exist? From gavel to gavel, our purpose as Mississippi Baptists was proclaimed. Dean Register, president of the Pastor's Conference, said it well: "Amazing grace for every race."

Sandwiched in between these proclamations were business sessions, elections, and resolutions. But it was the ringing declaration of "send the light" in song and sermon that made the highlights.

Convention President Rex Yancey made a strong plea for unity, oneness, and letting kindness replace any vengeance.

The vignettes from *Vessels*, a video magazine produced by the Convention Board, portrayed the far reaching ministries of Mississippi Baptists — from Alaska to Bolivia. Bill Causey, Convention Board executive director-treasurer,

pointed out that God has examined us, tested us, and then entrusted us with the gospel.

Would that we could end this editorial on that note....

However, to be honest, the acrid smell of the gun powder of displeasure surfaced from time to time. Perhaps in this day it is asking too much for us to agree on every issue. Baptists have discovered ways of "kicking over the traces" at various flashpoints in history, and often justifiably so.

Some attendees to this 160th session objected to the "Halloween" convention, because it started too early. They would have preferred a mid-November date. The sale of Clarke College caused a bit of misunderstanding, but an excellent committee, working long and hard, made the best recommendation it could make.

There was a resolution proposed which asked messengers to formally object to *The Baptist Record's* "... promotion, dissemination of promotional materials, and the printing of any information... that would encourage, enhance, or create growth

and development for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF) or any of its leaders." The resolutions committee reported this with no recommendation, and the resolution was referred to the advisory committee of *The Baptist Record*.

As this editor has repeatedly stated: It is not the intent of this newspaper to promote CBF, but it does seek to report the news when CBF makes the news.

Some were not pleased with the budget proposal in which Mississippi Baptists would take over the Home Mission Board (HMB) ministries in our state. The Southern Baptist Convention and the HMB had requested this be done and Mississippi Baptists have demonstrated a willingness to do it.

There were likely other areas that displeased some messengers, but overall the mission of sending the light was where the spotlight paused. Last year there were 6,792 Mississippi volunteers in missions activities in 27 foreign countries and in 40 states.

Assuredly, we were all pleased with that fact.

## Guest Opinion...

## In defense of intolerance

By Janie M. West

"We must exercise more tolerance!"

That is the dogma preached at us in every politically correct letter, sermon, news article, and speech being spread abroad today. A recent letter to the Jackson *Clarion-Ledger* newspaper elevated tolerance to the heights of virtue while denigrating intolerance to the level of the unpardonable sin.

Thankfully, this "anything goes" viewpoint was not widely held by previous generations of Americans. Back in the Dark Ages of bigotry and ignorance, we were totally unenlightened. In the 18th century, for example, our founding fathers were intolerant of the tyranny of King George III of England. At great personal sacrifice they secured a refuge of freedom for all future citizens of America.

In the 19th century, as now, there were radical, religious extremists who insisted on forcing their moral code on their fellow countrymen. They were called abolitionists. They refused to tolerate the evils of slavery. Even the President was taken in by their arm-twisting. Ignoring the obvious fact that you cannot legislate

morality, he signed the Emancipation Proclamation and legislated it anyway.

Americans of both sexes and all races in this century could not accept racial and sexual inequality. They won equal rights and voting privileges for women and minorities.

Fifty years ago our entire population joined the peoples of four continents to express their intolerance for Hitler's supreme race and Japan's imperialism. Those peoples also sacrificed greatly for their descendants.

But times have changed. Our society is different now. Perhaps we should be more broad-minded. After all, if we can accept abortion on demand, child pornography, and being business partners with Communist China, we can accept anything.

And we do. From gang violence and career criminals to unethical leaders who repeatedly ignore or reinterpret the Constitution, we tolerate it all.

We gripe and complain and argue over whose "fault" it is, of course. But are we willing to take a public stand on any issue of consequence? Take a stand against abortion, and Planned Parenthood

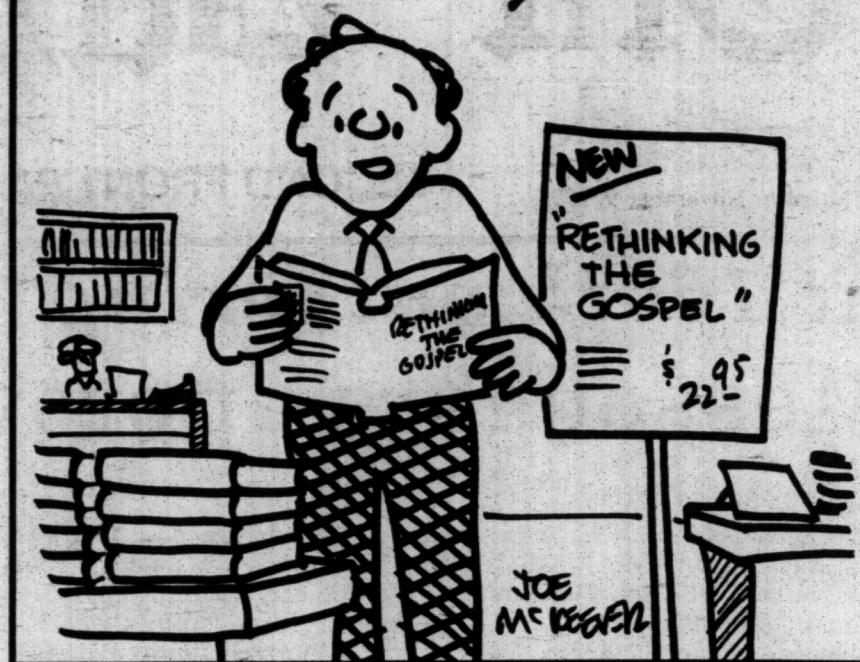
labels you a terrorist. Speak out against pornography masquerading as art or free speech, and you are accused of censorship. Do you support public expression of religious faith? Then you must be one of those radical, right-wing, religious extremists. You probably oppose special rights for homosexuals, too, don't you? You ignorant bigot.

Insults are unpleasant. But they are a small price to pay for speaking out against immorality. Perhaps it is our turn to make a few sacrifices for the future of our country. Where and when will we draw the line? Will we draw the line?

It is my personal conviction that each individual deserves respect and acceptance. But recognizing a person's worth as a fellow human does not require us to embrace his philosophies and promote his lifestyle. To meekly surrender — against our consciences — to the prevailing dogmas of an unethical society is, at best, cowardly. To our principled forebears, it would have seemed treasonous.

We have been too tolerant for too long, and we are paying a great price for it in the moral decline of our country. Our nation

"BEWARE OF RELIGIOUS BOOKS WITH TITLES THAT BEGIN WITH 'RETHINKING'!"



## THE FRAGMENTS

## In convention hallways...

Roc Collins, Hattiesburg evangelist, preaching on the crossing of the Red Sea: "There was a wall of water on the right, and a wall of water on the left.... I don't know what you call that, but I call it a wall of water on the right and a wall of water on the left."

"Many people are quite happy in their church, which they never attend."

"Reverence and *rigor mortis* are not the same thing."

Tony Evans, Dallas pastor, said his invitation to come was short and sweet: "You believe in free speech?" he was asked. "Why yes," Evans said. "Good, then come over and give one."

TV talk shows were described as "babble by the hour;"

... And how 'bout "a mist in the pulpit can be a fog in the pew;"

... Or a pastor saying, "It was in my first pastorate where I discovered that sheep bite;"

... Or our spiritual leaders may "shine, whine, and recline, or they may dictate, manipulate, or aggravate."

"They glanced at their problems and gazed at their God but today we glance at God and gaze at our problems;"

... And then there was the happy little boy in worship, who sang: "... more like the pastor, I would ever be;"

... And one which I wish I had thought of: "Folks who think twice have half as much to say."

— GH

will not long survive in freedom if we continue to close our eyes while rushing down the road of self-destruction.

Should it not concern us that our own government discourages marriage through its tax laws and welfare programs? Welfare dollars may or may not encourage illegitimacy, but they certainly discourage responsible fatherhood. The unmarried mother is eligible for more benefits than the married one. What message does that send? Do we really expect these young people to be more ethical than we have taught them to be? Can we insist that they be disciplined and responsible citizens when we are not?

How can we teach moral values to our children and tolerate the promotion of "diverse sexual ori-

entation" in their schools? How can we encourage non-violence and teach them respect for human life while we murder their unborn siblings and promote euthanasia?

How can we insist they obey the law and respect authority when he who is the Highest Lawgiver and the Ultimate Authority is censored in their public lives?

The prophet Isaiah wrote of these hypocrisies almost 3,000 years ago: "Cursed are those who call evil good and good, evil," he said. It seems there was a lot of tolerating going on in his day, too.

The Bible teaches that God loves us even in our sin. And so he does. It also says he cannot tolerate evil. Why should we? Let's exercise some intolerance.

West is a member of First Church, Brookhaven.

## The Baptist Record

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# The Baptist Record

Thursday, November 9, 1995

SECOND FRONT PAGE — SPECIAL CONVENTION REPORT

Published Since 1877

## At 160th gathering...

## Messengers approve record-high MBC budget

By Tim Nicholas

Messengers to the 1995 Mississippi Baptist Convention (MBC), meeting Oct. 31-Nov. 1 at First Church, Jackson, approved a record budget of nearly \$23.3 million, elected new convention officers, and passed a large slate of resolutions.

The Mississippi Cooperative Program (CP) budget for 1996 totals \$23,280,983 — a 2.98% increase over the 1995 budget. Of that amount, 37% — \$8,613,965 — will go to Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) causes outside the state.

The 1996 budget calls for the amount equal to the money sent to the state by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board (HMB) for jointly-funded projects — \$249,530 — to be set aside for home mission work in the state.

HMB will receive the same amount received in the 1995 budget — \$1,635,673. However, the quarter-million dollars usually returned to the state for joint projects is freed to go to pioneer mission work and not be sent to Mississippi.

A timely resolution opposing the late-term abortion procedure known as dilation and extraction (D and X) was passed without debate on Nov. 1.

The U.S. House of Representatives voted the same day to ban the procedure, which is used to abort through the ninth month of preg-

nancy. The measure now goes to the U.S. Senate.

New officers elected by messengers from Mississippi's 2,049 churches included Jimmy Porter, pastor of First Church, McComb, president; Clarence Cooper, pastor of Emmanuel Church, Grenada, first vice president; and Edgar Lee Wright, pastor of New Sight Church, Brookhaven, second vice-president.

J.W. Brister of Madison, retired director of missions for Metro Association, was re-elected recording secretary. David Sellers, pastor of Tylertown Church, Tylertown, was re-elected associate recording secretary. Both were elected by acclamation.

Porter replaces Rex Yancey, pastor of First Church, Pascagoula. Cooper replaces Kara Blackard, pastor of Wheeler Grove Church, Corinth. Wright replaces Richard Johnson, pastor of Parkview Church, Greenville.

Porter's opponent in the presidential race was Clark Stewart, pastor of Harmony Church, Crystal Springs, and current president of the Mississippi Baptist Pastor's Conference. Porter won in a ballot vote of 635-590.

Porter was nominated by Kermit McGregor, pastor of First Church, Mendefhall. Stewart was nominated by Bobby Williamson, pastor of

Park Place Church, Brandon.

Stewart's nomination was seconded by Blackard, who added a partisan spirit to the election.

Blackard said the convention needed a president who would "not compromise, but correct." He noted the convention needed to take a stand against the ordination of women as deacons and pastors, and oppose the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF).

In the first vice-president race, Cooper defeated two other nominees on the first ballot with 50.37% of the vote.

His opponents were Paul Blanchard, Winston Association director of missions, and Richard Johnson, pastor of Parkview Church, Greenville.

Wright was unopposed in the race for second vice-president.

Other resolutions approved by messengers included opposition to gambling in general and the potential opening of gambling establishments in Jackson in particular; opposition to nude and topless dancing establishments; better preparation for marriage through counseling; opposition to loosening of divorce laws; respect for Sunday as a day of worship; opposition to domestic violence; and appreciation for the Clarke College Property Special Study Committee.

A total of three resolutions were referred by messengers to Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) committees. Those resolutions included:

- increasing the budget's contribution to SBC causes by 1% each year for the next three years (referred to the budget committee).

- objection to use of CBF news in *The Baptist Record* that would "encourage, enhance, or create growth and development for the CBF or any of its leaders." (referred to *The Baptist Record* advisory committee.)

- a request that the MBCB office of communication produce television advertising for MBC and SBC causes (referred to the executive committee).

Thad Moore, pastor of First Church, Holly Springs, moved that the three resolutions be referred to the committees.

Bobby Hood, pastor of West Salem Church, Greene Association, spoke against Moore's motion, saying he wanted to speak on the resolution concerning *The Baptist Record*.

Resolutions committee chair Ed

Jones, a member of First Church, Pascagoula, told messengers that Bylaw 12 of the MBC Constitution required all resolutions to be reported.

Convention parliamentarian Eddie Hamilton, Metro Association director of missions, ruled that the messengers' choices were to accept, take action, amend, or refer each resolution.

Moore's motion to refer was passed without further debate.

Odean Puckett, MBCB president and pastor of First Church, Natchez, presented the MBCB report.

Messengers approved a proposal in the MBCB report to sell as individual parcels the property of Clarke College, the Baptist-affiliated junior college in Newton that closed in 1992.

Individual buyers have indicated interest in virtually all of the property except dormitories.

Before the Clarke vote, David Abbott, pastor of Union Seminary Church, Jasper County, moved to amend the sale motion to state that Clarke special committee members and their families not be allowed to profit from sale of the property.

Larry Otis, Tupelo businessman and chairman of the Clarke committee, strode to the podium to say, "I almost take affront" to Abbott's motion. He said he had heard rumors of such accusations and

"none of us has any interest in it."

Levon Moore of Kosciusko, retired Attala Association director of missions and a Clarke committee member, criticized Abbott's motion, saying it is already "difficult to get people to serve on committees" without the "creation and expression of a lack of trust."

Nathan Barber, pastor of Immanuel Church, Lamar Association, said he wanted the convention to "go on record for history to know we do affirm this committee." A standing affirmation appeared to be unanimous.

A ballot vote for Abbott's amendment passed 356 to 313. The amended motion to sell the property then passed by a show of hands.

Puckett also reported on a motion passed at the 1994 convention which requested that Bill Causey, MBCB executive director-treasurer, along with the convention board and legal counsel, "examine the charters of our boards and agencies" to make certain that the action of the Mississippi College (MC) trustee board not be repeated by other convention-related agencies.

MC trustees amended their charter in 1994 to allow for only one-fourth of the school's trustees to be elected by the convention.

After intense negotiations between convention leaders and (See **MESSENGERS** on page 5)



### MBCB leaders

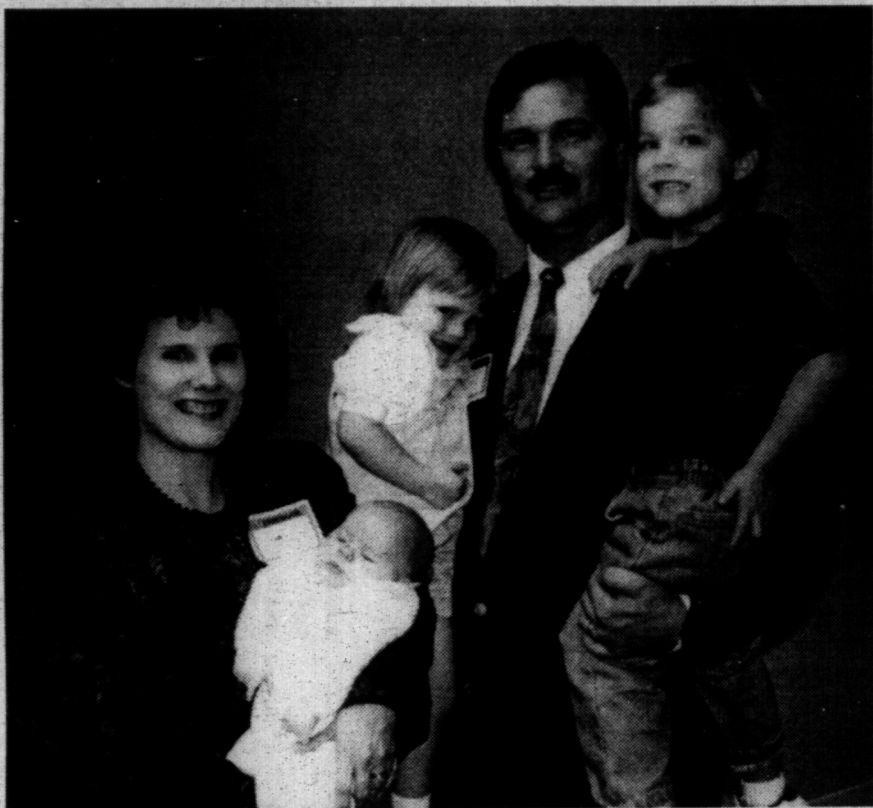
Odean Puckett (center), pastor of First Church, Natchez, was elected to a second one-year term as president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) when the full board met in the Baptist Building immediately after the Nov. 1 adjournment of the 1995 Mississippi Baptist Convention. Officers elected to serve with Puckett include Sonny Adkins (right), pastor of Forest Church, Forest, vice-president; and Frank Smith, pastor of Sunrise Church, Leake Association, secretary. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)



### 1996 MBC officers

Newly-elected officers of the Mississippi Baptist Convention for 1996 include (from left) Clarence Cooper Jr., pastor of Emmanuel Church, Grenada, first vice-president; Jimmy Porter, pastor of First Church, McComb, president; Jay Brister, retired Metro Association director of missions, recording secretary; and David Sellers, pastor of Tylertown Church, Tylertown, recording secretary. Not pictured is Edgar Lee Wright, pastor of New Sight Church, Brookhaven, second vice-president. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)





## Youngest conventioneer

Karen Thomas (left) holds six-week-old son Caleb, who seems unimpressed at the moment with his status as the youngest attendee at the 1995 Mississippi Baptist Convention. Caleb's dad Jeff (second from right), pastor of First Church, Polkville, holds sister Bethani (center), age 2 and a half, and brother Andrew, age 4. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

## Cooperative Program gifts thru SBC down for month; designated up

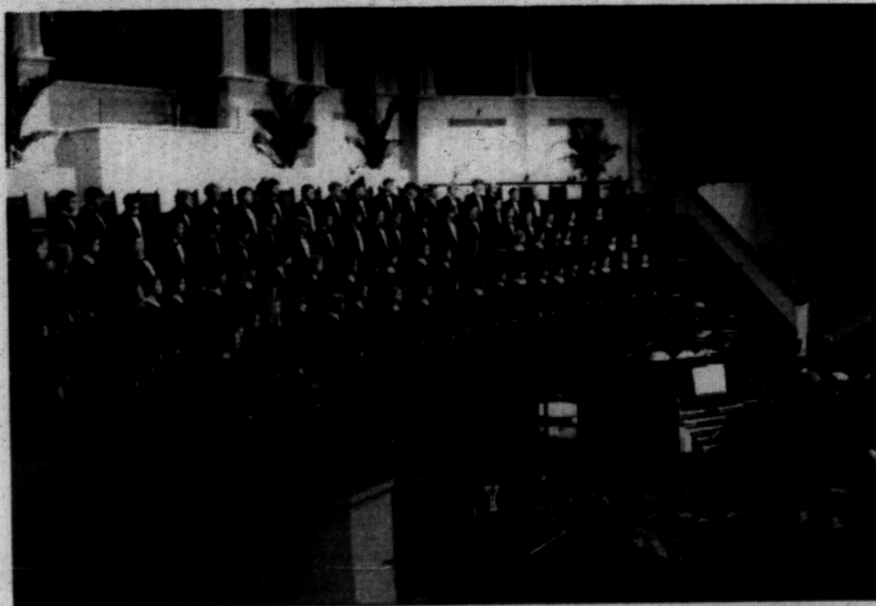
NASHVILLE (BP)—Cooperative Program gifts for October were down 6.55% from the same month a year ago while designated gifts were up 18.33%, according to Morris H. Chapman, president and chief executive officer of the SBC Executive Committee.

For the first month of the 1995-96 SBC fiscal year, CP gifts totaled \$10,937,383 compared to October 1994 of \$11,704,398, a difference of \$767,015 or 6.55%.

The monthly requirement for the 1995-96 Program Allocation Budget is \$11,802,427.

Designated gifts for October totaled \$2,326,574 compared to last year of \$1,966,220, a difference of \$360,354 or an 18.33% increase.

The SBC Cooperative Program total includes receipts from individuals, churches, state conventions, and fellowships for distribution according to the 1995-96 Program Allocation Budget.



## William Carey singers

Members of the Chorale of William Carey College in Hattiesburg perform a series of musical pieces for the Nov. 1 afternoon session of the 1995 Mississippi Baptist Convention at First Church, Jackson. Milfred Valentine is director of the Chorale. The performance was followed by a report to the convention by William Carey College President Jim Edwards. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

## Judge rules...

# Nobles competent to stand trial on 20-count federal indictment

By William H. Perkins Jr.

Former Mississippi College president Lewis Nobles is competent to stand trial on charges he diverted at least \$1.7 million in donations intended for the Baptist-affiliated college in Clinton, U.S. District Judge William Barbour ruled Oct. 31 in Jackson.

"The burden of proof is on the government to prove the defendant is competent to stand trial. The Court finds that he is (competent)," Barbour said, after hearing about two hours of testimony from a single government witness — Noble's psychologist at the U.S. Federal Prison Hospital in Springfield, Mo.

Barbour earlier this year ordered a competency evaluation for Nobles, 70, after he failed to appear for a pre-trial hearing in Jackson on Jan. 26. Nobles faces a 20-count federal indictment.

FBI agents tracked Nobles to a San Francisco hotel late in the evening of Jan. 26, where court testimony has indicated he swallowed cyanide as the agents closed in on him.

Nobles was rushed to a nearby hospital, where two emergency surgeries saved his life. However, he apparently suffered a brain disfunction during recovery from the surgeries.

Robert L. Denney, a clinical psychologist and neuropsychologist at the federal prison hospital in Missouri to which Nobles was later transferred, testified that he was originally pessimistic about Nobles' competency when he first evaluated him on March 2.

A battery of psychological tests indicated Nobles suffered less brain damage than originally estimated, Denney reported.

Those tests led to his professional conclusion that although Nobles suffers "residual difficulties," he exceeds the level for competency to stand trial, Denney testified.

"He has the ability to assist in his defense," Denney said.

Denney, who is also an adjunct professor at Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Mo., said the tests showed Nobles had difficulty with "visual/spatial integration" and "visual motor coordination," but his full-scale IQ at the end of treatment was measured at 117, which is in the above average range.

Denney also reported Nobles suffers from "confabulation," which he described as a mental condition in which a person consciously or unconsciously makes up stories to fill in memory gaps.

Under intense cross-examination by Nobles attorney Amy Whitten of Oxford, Denney agreed that his original diagnosis of Nobles was "basically dementia," and that Nobles' thinking would be slower than before the brain injury.

Denney also admitted that

Nobles was the first case he had handled that involved the combination of brain injury and cyanide poisoning.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Jack Lacy of Jackson responded by asking Denney if Nobles understands the charges lodged against him in the indictment.

"Certainly," Denney replied.

In addition to finding Nobles competent to stand trial, Barbour discharged him from the Missouri prison hospital and ordered attorneys to consult with the court on a trial date. Attorneys said Nobles is not expected to stand trial before February or March, 1996.

## Resolutions

### 1995 Mississippi Baptist Convention

#### Approved

1. **Abortion by Dilation and Extraction.** Condemns abortion in general and abortion by dilation and extraction specifically.
2. **Divorce.** Expresses opposition to expanding legal grounds for divorce in Mississippi.
3. **Plague of Gambling.** Suggests that public officials who advocate expanded gambling are not fit for office. Encourages education on problems of gambling. Calls upon the U.S. Congress to establish a National Commission on Gambling.
4. **Preparation for Marriage.** Encourages couples to participate in premarital counseling. Urges ministers to provide and promote premarital counseling.
5. **Community Decency.** Asks Mississippi Legislature to enact laws prohibiting operation of indecent entertainment, specifically nude dancing and topless entertainment. Encourages enforcement of existing laws.
6. **Appreciation for Mississippi Baptist Religious Education Association (MBREA).** Expresses support for MBREA and recognizes the group's 50th anniversary convention in Jackson Feb. 29-March 6, 1996.
7. **Appreciation.** Expresses appreciation to convention host, First Church, Jackson; convention worship leaders; Mississippi Baptist Convention President Rex Yancey; and all officers of convention boards and institutions, along with trustees and committee members.
8. **Sacredness, Sanctity, and Importance of Sunday.** Asks churches to voice concern to organizers of Sunday activities concerning the sacredness, sanctity, and importance of Sunday as a day of worship.
9. **Domestic Violence.** Calls for intervention on behalf of battered women and children. Demands accountability from batterer. Supports shelters for battered families.
10. **Opposing Gambling in Capital City.** Voices opposition to gambling in Jackson. Recommends development of alternate funding sources.
11. **Appreciation for Clarke Property Special Study Committee.** Extends gratitude for work of committee.

#### Referred to MBCB Budget Committee

12. **Cooperative Program Budget Increase.** Requests Mississippi Baptist Convention increase contribution to the Cooperative Program by 1% each year for rest of century, until ratio is achieved of 60% state causes to 40% Southern Baptist causes.

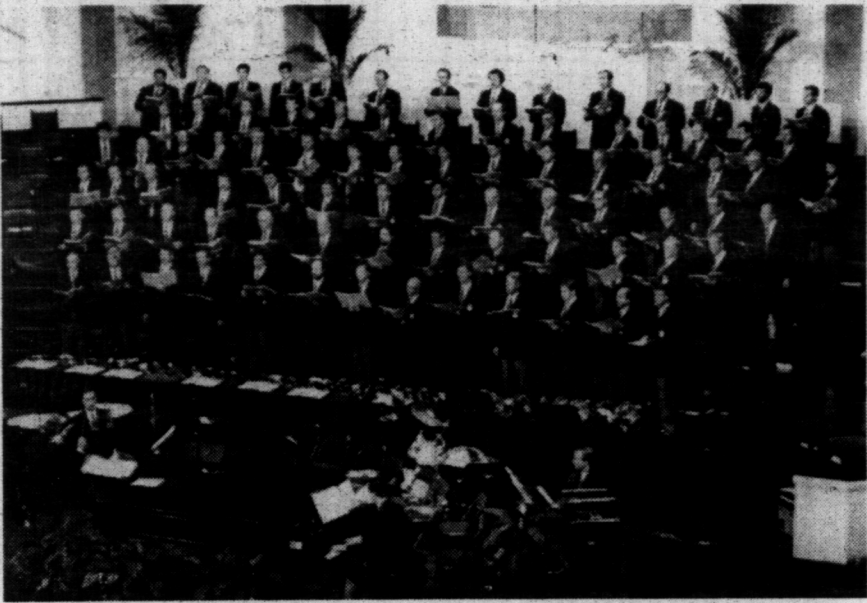
#### Referred to The Baptist Record Advisory Committee

13. **Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF) and The Baptist Record.** Objects to promotion, dissemination, and printing of any information in *The Baptist Record* that would enhance CBF.

#### Referred to MBCB Office of Communication

14. **Television Advertising for Mississippi and Southern Baptist Causes.** Advocates advertising over major television networks in state to inform citizens of Baptist causes.





## Singing churchmen

The Mississippi Singing Churchmen perform a choral praise at the Oct. 31 evening session of the 1995 Mississippi Baptist Convention. The well-known Churchmen, who have a number of popular albums to their credit, toured Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgistan, and Russia in 1994. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

## Managing money seen as biblically-based idea

HOT SPRINGS, Ark. (BP) — If you don't think overspending is a sin, check the Bible.

Carefully managing money is a biblically based concept, said a pastor who led a workshop on the subject during a Fall Festival of Marriage in Hot Springs, Ark., Oct. 27-29.

"Jesus said a lot about money. There are 700 verses about it in the Bible," said Dan Griffin, pastor of Christ Fellowship Church, Arlington, Texas. Griffin, who keeps a detailed, but simple monthly budget, led the workshop, "Money and How it Matters," at the marriage festival.

Griffin said God wants Christians to maintain control of their finances for two reasons: because the church needs 10% and because families operate more healthily when money matters are not a concern.

"Money is the No. 1 cause of marriage breakups," Griffin said. "We need to be very scrupulous and disciplined and Christian about how we handle our money. Money is dangerous."

Ironically, Griffin said, when couples have little money, they pray more.

"But when we get more comfortable, we don't trust in the Lord as much," he said. "And that's why money can be dangerous."

The three principles to money management, according to Griffin, are: tithing, taking care of what you have, and earning interest by not paying it.

"That means getting rid of the credit card payments," he said. "To do that, we have to start resisting what Madison Avenue tells us we need to be happy. Money is important, but it's not supposed to be our lord and master."

Griffin suggested couples begin actions to reduce or eliminate debt.

"Work with what God has already given you and let him know you want to get out of debt. Take what he's given you and do the best you can with it."

"Who knows, he might start throwing money at you. He can still put the manna on your table."

Two resources for couples interested in taking charge of the finances include "Master Your Money" video training kit and workbook and the 1995 doctrine study, **Partners with God: Bible Truths about Giving**, by Bobby L. Eklund and Terry Austin.

## Pastors meet at First, Jackson, for annual pre-Convention conference

The theme of the Oct. 30 Mississippi Baptist Pastor's Conference was "Faithful to the Finish."

Dean Register, pastor of Temple Church, Hattiesburg, presided over the meeting at First Church, Jackson. Larry Black, minister of music at First, Jackson, led the music.

A unique feature of this year's meeting was the "Men of Prayer." Lannie Wilbourn of Brandon, Jerry Doggett of Petal, Gary Shows of Hattiesburg, Bobby Douglas of Columbus, Les Hughes of Summit, and Frank Pollard of Jackson, led in intercessory prayer for the various speakers.

Randall Turner, pastor of First Church, Laurel, spoke from 2 Timothy 4:16-18, emphasizing the hope of Christ and the strength and sustenance we get from him.

Tommy Vinson, former pastor of Crossgates Church, Brandon, and

now in Memphis, preached on the "Cloud of Witnesses" and the weights to be laid aside.

"What do we tell our sons?" asked Roc Collins, Hattiesburg evangelist. "Once we were

slaves," said the Israelites, "now we are free"... but we had to exit that land to get to the promised land."

Wayne Ross of Hattiesburg shared a story of the prayer ministry of Jerry Glanville, pro-football coach at Houston and Atlanta, and the healing power of God.

Calvin Miller, professor at Southwestern Seminary, made it plain that "people count with God." He quoted: "A man who will not do the will of God is like a pair of spectacles behind which there are no eyes."

In the closing session Larry Winn of Dacula, Ga., and Tony Evans, African-American pastor from Dallas, spoke. Winn pointed out that the message is sacred, not the methods. Evans gave an exposition of John 4, observing that our commonality in Christ is greater than our cultural differences.



New officers for the Mississippi Pastor's Conference were elected at the group's Oct. 30 meeting at First Church, Jackson, prior to the annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. Clark Stewart (left) of Harmony Church, Crystal Springs, is president. Kara Blackard (right) of Wheeler Grove Church, Corinth, is president-elect. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

## MESSENGERS

From page 3

MC trustees, the charter change was amended to allow for joint approval of trustees by both the sitting MC board and the convention.

The MBCB report noted, "If an institution or agency would choose not to share in that mutual trust relationship, each issue would have to be individually addressed when it arises in the light of the charter of the agency or institution and the then existing circumstances, fact and law."

The report said work will continue to "monitor and work toward strengthening our ongoing relationships."

Marty Evans, pastor of Yellow Leaf Church, Lafayette Association, asked if an MBCB attorney would restate what had been noted in a

pre-convention MBCB meeting concerning ways to strengthen the convention's position concerning the charters.

No attorney was present, so Evans reported the attorney said that the convention could hold deeds to the property of the various institutions.

Two bylaw changes proposed for consideration in 1996 involved a change in the number of trustees at Mississippi Baptist institutions from 15 to 24, and a requirement that institutions wanting to make charter amendments do so only with the approval of the MBC.

A total of 1,635 messengers registered for the 1995 convention.

The 1996 convention will take place Oct. 29-30, at First Church, Jackson.

The 1996 convention sermon will be delivered by Clarence Cooper, MBC first vice-president and pastor of Emmanuel Church, Grenada.



Charles Thomas (right), pastor of Beacon Mission, Yazoo City, welcomes Tony Evans, pastor of Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship, Dallas, to the Mississippi Baptist Pastor's Conference Oct. 30 at First Church, Jackson. Evans, who keynoted the evening session of the conference, and Thomas are old friends who attended school together. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

## Medical Center, MC announce plans for new health center

Two of Mississippi's leading Baptist institutions, Mississippi College and Mississippi Baptist Medical Center, have announced plans to introduce a new approach and concept in fitness, wellness, and community health improvement through the establishment of a comprehensive Healthplex on the Mississippi College campus.

The estimated 105,000 square-foot complex will consist of 20,000 square feet of medical office, clinical, and education space, a 64,577 square-foot fitness center, and 21,000 square feet of renovated Alumni Hall space. The fitness center will include racquetball courts, gymnasium, a lap swimming pool, as well as a pool for rehabilitation therapy. Also included are areas for free weights and stationary exercise equipment, aerobics, fitness activities, classrooms, whirlpools,

saunas, a restaurant/cafe area, pharmacy, and other health-related services as well as childcare facilities.

"Because of our common interest in fitness, wellness, and community health improvement, we have chosen to evaluate a comprehensive approach to provide these and other health care and educational services on the college campus in Clinton," said M. Kent Strum, executive director and CEO of Mississippi Baptist Medical Center. "This is truly a collaborative effort, bringing to the student community increased opportunities for recreation and fitness while at the same time allowing much-needed growth to serve the healthcare needs of this growing area."

According to Mississippi College President Howell W. Todd, "This facility will not

only provide recreational benefits, but it will strengthen and enhance our allied health education and nursing curriculum. The Healthplex is being designed because we're no longer placing our sole athletic emphasis on competitive sports, but are seeking ways to encourage students to become involved in 'life sports' that they will be able to engage in throughout their lives."

Such activities include aerobics, running, swimming, cardiovascular exercise, and low impact competitive sports.

"Mississippi College, with an enrollment of approximately 3,500 students, has identified a significant need for expansion of its on-campus facilities. In particular, there is a need to expand student recreational facilities in order to help us attract prospective students," added Todd.

"Hospitals, whose traditional focus has been on treating sickness, are now recognizing that we have a responsibility in preventing disease and promoting health," said Strum. "Because of these trends, the college and the Medical Center have this innovative concept, combining fitness, wellness, and ambulatory care services with major emphasis on disease prevention, health promotion, and community health improvement."

"We believe the mix between the college, the medical staff, and the community represents an ideal union that will serve to promote prevention and good health among all community members at large," said Todd.

Initial cost of the project is projected to be \$9,442,213.

Construction on the project is expected to begin next spring.





# Letters to the editor



## Money misconception

Editor:

This letter is in reply to the letter written by George Holifield, Biloxi.

The \$200,000 given to establish a chair at Southwestern Seminary in honor of James T. Draper Jr., president of the Baptist Sunday School Board (BSSB). The money given is but a fraction needed to establish this chair. One million dollars is the goal for the chair. First Church, Euless, Texas, is also giving \$200,000. This is the church where Dr. Draper pastored before coming to his present position.

The chair will be used to educate students of the seminary for their work in the Kingdom of God. In other words, this will be an investment in the lives of the young people God calls to his service.

The increase in the cost of literature will not mean more profit for the BSSB but will keep the board from losing money. If you ask anyone in the printing business, they will tell you the cost of paper has soared in recent months.

Mr. Holifield is right in the fact that the BSSB does not receive any Cooperative Program funds. However, this does not end there. The BSSB gives money to the Cooperative Program. Even when we ran a deficit last year, the BSSB still gave money to the Cooperative Program. Also, the profits from the sale of books and literature goes back into programs which help the local churches.

Dr. Draper has done an outstanding job of leading the BSSB to turn around from losses during the past years. Why not honor this man for an excellent performance record?

Gus Merritt  
BSSB trustee  
Newton

## "Feed the lambs"

Editor:

My hat goes off to Ron Kirkland and his guest opinion article appearing in the Oct. 19, 1995, issue of *The Baptist Record*. It was timely and right on target for today's church.

It seems to me we have reduced our churches to merely numerical assembly lines baptizing just about anything that moves and accepting letters gladly without any formal spiritual knowledge of the persons in question. All in the name of success.

We have forgotten that when one walks the church aisle and places his/her faith in the Lord Jesus that person is surrendering to a life of service for Jesus! We are called to "feed the lambs" but that idea reduces us to servants when our real fleshly desire is to own the feed mill. Being saved by the Lord Jesus and being servants for the Lord Jesus cannot be separated.

We gauge success by numbers

— numbers of baptisms and letters. Jesus gauges success by how many of those can carry a cross. My job as pastor is not to hand out trophies to the ball teams nor is it to hand out attendance records and run up the numbers in Sunday School. I'm not a coach. My job is to make disciples out of those faithful few who have callouses on their knees from prayer and callouses on their shoulders from taking up their cross daily to follow our Lord Jesus!

So thank you, Mr. Kirkland, for putting me in "remembrance" of these things.

David A. Crowe, pastor  
Siloam Church  
Meadville

## Boycotting Disney

Editor:

I read with great interest the article in the Oct. 19, 1995, issue of *The Baptist Record* on page 12 under "Capsules," about the decision to provide health insurance to live-in partners of homosexual employees by the Walt Disney Co. While I do not approve of any type live-in partners, unmarried or homosexual, this decision by the Walt Disney Co. will forever make me take a second look at the way they are doing business. The article quoted Disney spokesman John Dreyer as saying: "We made this decision because it brings our health benefits in line with our corporate nondiscrimination policy." By the very fact that they will cover a homosexual live-in partner and will not cover a heterosexual live-in partner, they are being discriminatory. They sound like they are talking out of both sides of their mouth at once.

If you have access to the address of the Walt Disney Co. headquarters, please send it to me. I plan to write them a letter to let them know that I do not approve of their action. My wife and I raised five children and always took our kids to see all the Disney movies. They are all grown now, but we have seven grandchildren and we will not support the Disney Co. by taking them to see their movies.

Jimmie Gatlin  
McComb

**Editor's Note:** The address for the Walt Disney Company is: c/o Mr. Michael Eisner, 500 S. Buena Vista, Burbank, CA 91521.

## Comrades in arms

Editor:

In response to Carolyn Jones' letter (in the Oct. 26 issue) regarding the boycott of Kmart for seven years — no, she and her husband were not the only ones who boycotted. My husband and I are delighted to have found another couple!

It's amazing to us how many seemingly otherwise dedicated Christians don't seem to under-

stand that the only bottom line some companies understand is just that — the bottom line. My husband and I work entirely too hard for our money to spend it with companies who flaunt the homosexual agenda, sponsor violence or pornography on television, make R-rated movies, donate to Planned Parenthood, (the leading proponent of abortion as birth control), and the list goes on and on.

I will never forget the afternoon my children and I were in the grocery store. As they took item after item off the shelf, I put item after item back on the shelf and patiently explained why we were boycotting that particular company's products. After this had gone on for an aisle or two, the two of them became exasperated and said, "I'll bet no other mother does this!" I know a few others, but many more are uninformed or are simply apathetic.

As for my family, we continue to boycott — AT&T, Levi Strauss & Co., Unilever, and others. And we continue to patiently explain why we as Christians are obligated to do what we can. But a warning: you have to persevere. The problem, as Mrs. Jones stated, simply shifts around. Stay informed, don't bend, don't water down your convictions, and be prepared for long, long battles.

Sherry K. DeVoss  
Meridian

## Thanks for blessings

Editor:

I would like to take this time to thank each one of you for your cards, telephone calls, love offerings, and most of all your prayers for me while I've been recuperating from a heart attack. Seems like most of what we hear in this day and time is negative and how bad the world is. I'm here to say that there are still many good people in this world. This has been proven to me in so many ways the past couple of months. I have received so many prayer notes from Christian people that I've not even met but who care. The love and support from so many "preacher brothers" has been tremendous. The love offerings were so much appreciated and have purchased my medications these past few months. The Lord said that he would supply our needs. There is no way I could have made it through without God, my family, and friends. The Lord truly does take care of his children!

Several churches presented me with love offerings and I thank them all so much. God will bless each one in a special way. I want to say a special thank you to Enterprise Church in Liberty. This is the church where I retired from the full-time ministry last year. The people were always there for me during my ministry and have continued to show their love and support for me in many ways. I could not have asked for a

better church field to retire from. Enterprise will always hold a special place in my heart.

Again, thanks to all. I ask that you continue to pray for me. Hopefully, I will soon be back in some type of ministry for my Lord. May God bless each one of you.

Odell Tebo  
Hattiesburg

## Morality a necessity

Editor:

Over the months and years of reading letters to the editor I have observed a continuous trend in the opinions held about the issue of religion in our public schools. The one that amazes me most is theologians saying there is no need for any prayer, Bible instruction, or moral teaching in our public institutions.

One of the views held is that parents should and could shape the minds of our youngsters at home and in the church. There is much wrong with that view. I take, for instance, my own case where my parents were old in years before they were committed to the Lord and his church. There was no Bible or prayer in my home, and we didn't go to church, so the only place that I was exposed to it was in the public school of Coffeetown. We had chapel every week, and our teachers taught Scriptures and moral teaching right in the classroom. I still remember many of the scriptures that we acquired in English class. We were required to memorize many passages in the Word. If this hadn't been true, I would not have gotten anything.

One of the biggest miscarriages of justice is to interpret the amendment to say that it [reads in favor of] separation of church and state. If one simply browses through the historic accounts of our country, he would find quite the contrary. The Constitution was written not for pagan people but for Christian people.

How can we be so blind in America as not to see that the greatest need in America is not more money, but morals that are firmly imbedded in the Judeo-Christian culture.

Jim Jeffreys, pastor  
Poplar Springs Church  
Vardaman

## Small churches vital

Editor:

Recently I have been in two small churches for One Day Witness Training Workshops. Both average about 30 in Sunday School. One was in the Delta out in a field and is African American in membership. Eighteen people came on a Saturday morning for training in witnessing. Before we finished, a teenage boy became convicted of his not being ready for heaven and I got to witness to him and pray with him.

On Sunday, Oct. 22, I was in a

church that had 31 in Sunday School. It was established in 1919. We had 25 to come for a three-hour witness training session.

I have a few observations. Small churches are vitally important. Many times they respond much better — percentage wise — than larger ones. We folks at the Baptist Building delight to go where people really want us. The only reason we don't go to small churches is that we aren't invited.

James Fancher, consultant  
Evangelism Department  
MBCB

## Accountability key

Editor:

I was able to attend the Mississippi Baptist Convention this year for the first time in several years. I truly received a wonderful blessing from the singing, preaching, and the Bible Treasures.

However, I was a bit disturbed by some of the business. In several of the messages heard, we were challenged as Christians that we are accountable as servants of God. We are accountable to each other and we are accountable especially to God. We were reminded of the need for integrity in the ministry.

Yet, when the special committee for the dispensation of the Clarke College property was asked to be accountable, some of them were offended. I don't think anyone meant for the committee to feel challenged or threatened. One member expressed that he was offended because messengers to the convention did not trust him. He was offended that messengers wanted an amendment attached that would prevent anyone on the committee from personally profiting from the sale of the property.

Rumors had already surfaced that this might happen. Rather than seeing this amendment as undermining their integrity, they should have seen it as a safeguard that would quash the rumors.

We were messengers, representing the members of our churches. Most of these church members do not know anyone on that committee, but they have seen the clergy, even of our own convention, prove themselves dishonest and immoral in recent years. I saw the amendment as an opportunity to rebuild trust, not to destroy it.

We were reminded that, as servants of God, we must earn respect. It does not come by virtue of a title. I must say that the negative reaction of committee members actually made them look suspicious. I trust every member of that committee and have the utmost respect for them, but why did they oppose the amendment? They should have welcomed it.

Walter Simmons, pastor  
Furrs Church  
Pontotoc



# Historical Commission asks to be included in restructure sessions

NASHVILLE (BP) — The Implementation Task Force named to coordinate the restructuring of the Southern Baptist Convention has been asked by the Historical Commission to open its meetings to a representative of the agency, which is among several scheduled for dissolution.

The request, voted on by the Historical Commission's administrative committee Oct. 25, was forwarded in a letter by Commission Chairman Ronald Martin, of Garden Grove, Calif., to Morris H. Chapman, SBC Executive Committee president, and Robert Record, Implementation Task Force chairman and pastor of First Church, Norfolk, Va.

Record issued a response Nov. 3: "The Implementation Task Force looks forward to working with each of the SBC agencies involved in 'Covenant for a New Century.' Contact is being made with each agency to establish the needed communication for the future

implementation process."

"Covenant for a New Century" is the name of the restructuring plan approved by messengers to the 1995 SBC annual meeting in Atlanta and scheduled for a related bylaws vote during the 1996 SBC meeting in New Orleans. The plan, framed by a seven-member Program and Structure Study Committee, was forwarded to the convention by the SBC Executive Committee, acting on a referral from the 1993 SBC annual meeting in Houston.

Dissolution of the Historical Commission, along with the Stewardship and Education commissions, is one of several key facets of the restructuring.

Martin's letter noted: "The Historical Commission's trustees have responsibility for the operation and dissolution of the agency as provided by the Southern Baptist Convention and the laws of the state of Tennessee, and as defined by the charter of the agency.

"Consequently, it is essential

that the Implementation Task Force and we, the trustees of the Historical Commission, cooperate in the implementation of the dissolution of the Commission and the continuation of the Southern Baptist Historical Library & Archives."

The Historical Commission's administrative committee requested that the agency's interim executive director, Slayden Yarbrough, or his representative from the staff, attend the Implementation Task Force meetings in order to comply with various legal obligations.

The 10-member Implementation Task Force was appointed during the Sept. 18-20 Executive Committee meeting. The Task Force has been assigned to both develop and implement the SBC restructuring by the end of the June 1997 SBC annual meeting in Dallas.

## Mississippi CBF holds annual meeting Nov. 4 in Jackson

Approximately 150 Mississippi Baptists gathered on Nov. 4 at Northminster Church, Jackson, to hear Russell Dilday address the fall assembly of the Mississippi Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

In its annual business session, the group adopted its 1996 budget, amended its bylaws, and elected members and officers to its coordinating council.

Officers for 1995-96 are: Holly Redford of Clinton, moderator;

Dick Allison of Hattiesburg, moderator-elect; Tom Mercier of Prentiss, secretary; and John Armistead of Tupelo, treasurer.

During the worship time, Dilday, interim dean of George W. Truett Theological Seminary in Waco, Texas, delivered a sermon titled, "Authenticus Baptistus: An Endangered Species." He asserted that freedom stands as the "identifying gene" of Baptists.

"There's a sense in which Baptists are born free.... This is our birthright," Dilday said.

He enumerated various threats to "Authenticus Baptistus" from the endangered species list, including: recycling the enduring principle of the free and autonomous local church, cultivating the role of lay leadership, weeding out creedalism, reseeding the field of theological training, planting new alliances among free and faithful Baptists, filtering out the pollution of government entanglements, and being free, being Baptist.

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## 1996 DOM officers

Newly-elected officers of the Mississippi Conference of Directors of Missions for 1996, chosen during the Mississippi Baptist Convention in Jackson Oct. 31-Nov. 1, are (from left) Farris Smith, Simpson Association, president-elect; George Berger, Lebanon Association, president; and Roger Dorsett, Tishomingo Association, secretary-treasurer for a second term. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

## Revival Dates

**New Sight, Brookhaven:** Nov. 12-16; 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Luther Price, Clarksdale, evangelist; Price Harris, Shreveport, La., music; E. L. Wright, pastor.

**Alexander Memorial, Hollandale:** Nov. 12-15; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7:30 p.m.; Mon., children's night; Tues., youth night; and Wed., family night; a meal will be served each night; Jimmy McLendon, Glen Allen, evangelist; Bobby Whittington, Glen Allen, music; Michael R. McLendon, pastor.

**Center Terrace, Canton:** Nov. 12-15; Sunday, 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Gene Williams, Lithonia, Ga., evangelist; Jon McCartney, Center Terrace Church, music; Jerry T. Hood, pastor.

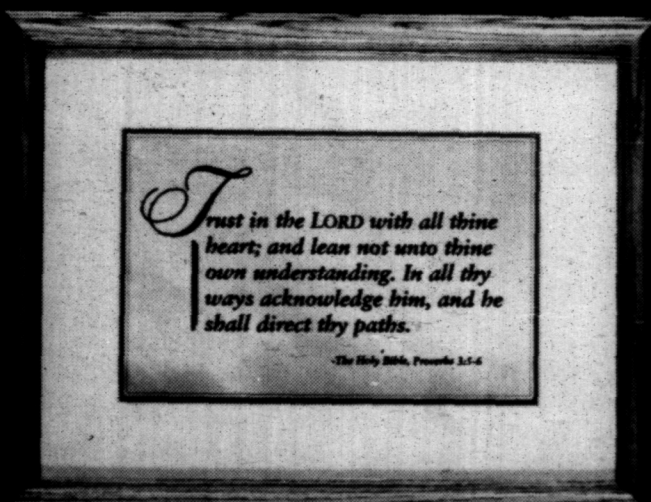
**Short Creek (Yazoo):** Nov. 17-19; layman revival; speakers: Fri., Robert Lungrin, 7 p.m.; Sat., Wayne Arrington, 7 p.m.; Sunday, Larry Bloom, 11 a.m., followed by covered dish dinner; Jimmy Darrell Harrison, music; Norris Ables, pastor.

**Mission Hill, Wesson:** Nov. 17-19; Fri., 7 p.m., Hubert Greer, evangelist; Sat., 7 p.m., Bendon Ginn, evangelist; Sunday, 10:50 a.m., Larry Hart, evangelist; Tommy Purvis, pastor.

**First, Collinsville:** Nov. 16-17; 7 p.m.; Danny Lanier, evangelist; Hal Bates, pastor.

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## Just for the Record



**First Church, Hazlehurst**, recently held a Recognition Service for GAs and RAs. GAs, pictured from left, front row, are Erica Douglas, Olivia Gibson, Jessica Floyd, Ashley Newman, Ashlea Brooks; second row, April Odom, Brittney Newman, Chelsea Williams, Julie Hankins, Rebecca Hankins, Mary Camille Price, Hannah Jordan; third row, Susan Whittington, GA leader, Whitney Yeates, Laura Stewart, Alice Claire Thompson, Madeline Price, Joy Morris, Stacy Odom, Sherry Davis, Mission Adventures leader, and Becky Bozeman, director.

**RAs**, pictured from left, front row, are Jesse Morris, Chase Davis, Jay Keywood, Eric Walker, Stephen Bozeman, Preston Berry; second row, Nick Newman, Jake Guess, Phil Walker, Michael Newman, Nick Gunter, D. J. Cliburn, Clark Little, Justin Minton; third row, Brandon Paul Brooks, Lucas DeLaRiva, Lee Walker, Tony Hill, Randle Scruggs, Stephen Assink; back row, Randy Hankins, director, and RA leaders, Pete DeLaRiva, Jeff Newman, Ken Whittington, and William Little. Robert M. Hanvey is pastor.



**Wade Church, Pascagoula**, held a ground breaking ceremony on Oct. 1 to officially begin construction of a 650 seat auditorium. The construction is expected to be finished in July 1996. The ceremony was followed by dinner at the church and during the evening service a musical presentation by The Singing Grannies. Pictured from left are Johnny Naramore, Arnie Waltman; William L. (Bill) Barton, pastor, and Mark Taylor, chairman of the construction committee.

**Eastabuchie Church, Eastabuchie**, will celebrate its 112<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a three part service — Rededication, Homecoming, and Thanksgiving — on Sunday, Nov. 12. Services will begin at 9:45 a.m. A covered dish luncheon will be served at noon. Arlie Spalding is pastor.

**Rocky Creek Church, Lucedale**, recently dedicated the largest stained glass baptismal window built to date by Bell Glass. The scene pictures Jesus kneeling beside a large rock praying in the

garden of Gethsemane. The window contains over 200 different shades of color. It took 20 hours to install the window and paint the ceiling, which provides a continuation of the skyline. Lee Ann Bauer, creative artist, designed and labored over a thousand hours hand painting each individual piece. The window was installed Sept. 16 and dedicated on Sept. 24. J.W. (Dub) and Jeanine Havard and Harley and Margie Havard donated the window in memory of their parents, Lee and Kate D. Havard. Jerry W. Mixon is pastor.

**Mississippi College** announces its "Best of Britain" tour March 7-17, 1996. Mr. and Mrs. Edward McMillan, Mr. and Mrs. George Pittman, and Steve Cook will be conducting the tour. Enrollment is limited to 30. For more information call (601) 925-3225.

**Walnut Grove, Leake Association**, has exceeded its goal of \$500 for the Margaret Lackey Offering for State Missions, collecting a final total of \$590. John H. Pace Jr. is the pastor.

**Mount Moriah Church, Bogue Chitto**, exceeded its State Mission Offering goal of \$1,200, with a total offering of \$1,842. Ellen Martin is WMU director. Aaron Gillis is Brotherhood director. Danny Moss is pastor.

The 32<sup>nd</sup> annual **Santa Rosa Reunion** will be held jointly with the Frierson Reunion Nov. 12 at the Santa Rosa YMCA. This organization has contributed \$114,362 through the Cooperative Program since 1963. The number of lives touched by this "Eternal Stewardship" cannot be measured.

**Cato Church, Rankin Association**, will hold a Fall Mission Fest from 4:30-7 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 11. Admission is \$1; games, 25 cents; hot dog/hamburger supper, \$4. All proceeds go to missions.



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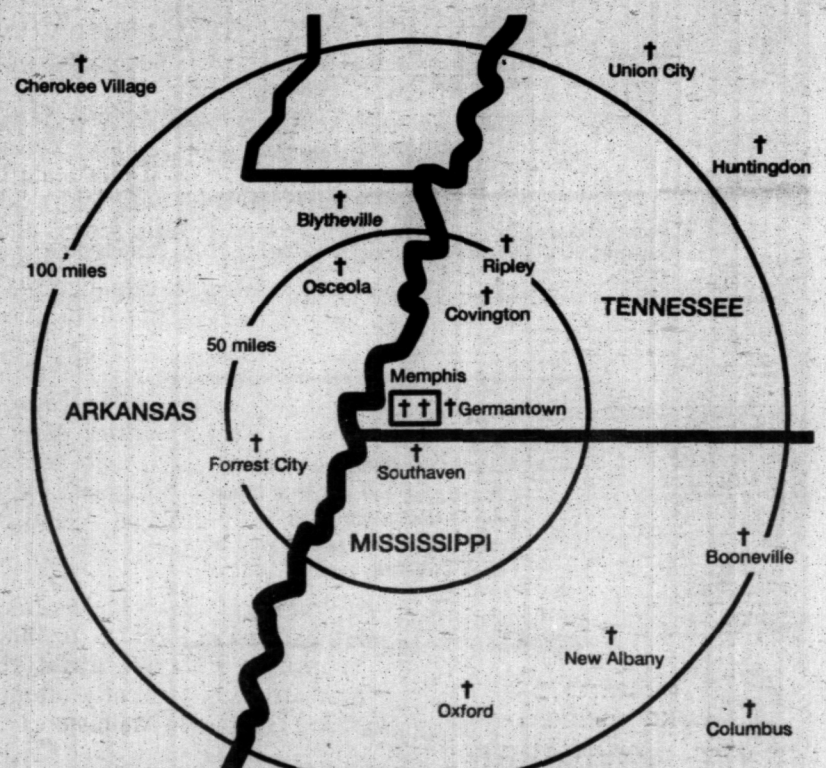
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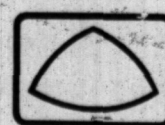
**GAs of Green's Creek Church, Petal**, were recognized at a tea on Sept. 10, for completing their Mission Adventures. The theme was "A Time to Grow." Pictured are Penny Gatlin, Monica Spell, Alisha Powell, Molly Lott, Kimberly Murphy, Amy Hamm, and Fran Field. Leaders are Janet Hamm and Shar Soldin.

## A Plan With A Purpose



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# Staff Changes

Thursday, November 9, 1995

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 9



Jones

**First Church, Anguilla**, has called **David A. Jones** as pastor effective Aug. 15. He received his education at Louisiana State University and Southwestern Seminary. Jones was ordained to the ministry on the weekend of Sept. 23 and 24 at First Church, Anguilla.

**Rusty Miller** has accepted the call as minister of music and education at **First Church, Okolona**. His previous place of service was First Church, Ecu. Randy Lewman is pastor.

**Ruleville Church, Ruleville**, has called **Ronnie Pannell** as director of youth and activities effective Sept. 10. His former place of service was Palestine Church, Bogalusa, La.

**Mt. Pleasant Church, Smith Association**, has called **Carey E. Bass** as pastor effective Oct. 1. A native of Prentiss, he received his education at Clarke College, Southwest Baptist University, Bolivar, Mo.; and New Orleans Seminary. His previous place of service was Hillsboro Church, Scott County. He has served at Shady Grove Church, Smith County, and Antioch Church, Jasper County.

**First Church, Lauderdale**, has called **Johnny Presley** as a full-time minister of music and education. Prior to Presley's call, the only full-time position at the church was held by Mike Russell, pastor.

**James David Caves** has resigned as pastor of New Zion Church, Kentwood, La., to accept the call to Bethel Church, Anderson, Ala. A native of Sonntag, he received his education from Co-Lin Junior College, Delta State University, and New Orleans Seminary. He previously served as pastor of Bethany Church, Merigold; Wanilla Church, Monticello; and Flat Top Unity Church, Picayune.

Caves

**Bethesda Church, Oktibbeha Association**, has called **James R. Hutcherson** as pastor effective Oct. 1. He previously pastored Grace Chapel, Aberdeen. He also served in Oktibbeha Association 1983-92 as pastor.

**Victory Church, Mathiston**, has called **Pat Perkins** as minister of music. Perkins, a native of Mathiston, is presently attending Wood College in Mathiston.

# Names in the News

**LANSDALE, Pa. (ABP)** — American Baptist historian **Robert Torbet** died Oct. 19 at his home in Lansdale, Pa. During his career, Torbet taught at two American Baptist schools: Eastern Seminary in St. Davids, Pa., and Central Seminary in Kansas City, Kan. He wrote several books, including **A History of Baptists and The Baptist Ministry — Then and Now**.

**Naomi Upton of Robinhood Church, Brandon**, recently answered God's call to be a missionary. A sophomore at Florence High School, she is the 16-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Upton of Florence. Her decision was greatly influenced by Jack and Penny Oyler of First Church, Raymond, who have been instrumental in helping to build over 50 churches in Brazil.



Upton

**Kristi Cook**, a senior education major at William Carey College, was elected vice-president of the Student-National Education Association (SNEA) and vice-president Student-Mississippi Association of Educators. She is president of the WCC chapter of SNEA. Cook, a resident of Petal, is the daughter of Robert and Ruby Cook.

**Strong Hope Church, Wesson**, held its deacon ordination service on Sept. 17. **Danny Farmer** was ordained at the regular Sunday night service. Lowell Ingram, pastor, gave the charge to Farmer and the church.

**David Allen**, associate professor of education and psychology at William Carey College, received the Best Paper Award from the 1995 Texas Association for Institutional Research Conference held recently in San Antonio, Texas.

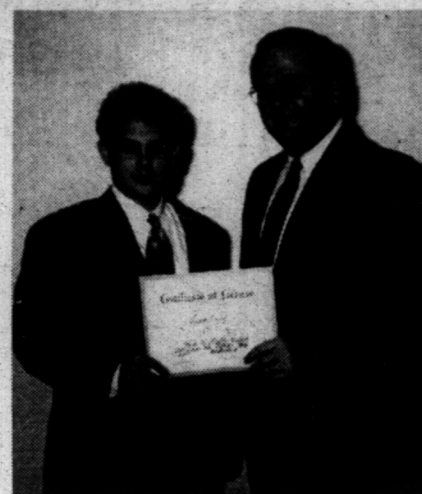
Allen's paper, "Majorities and Minorities: Determinants of College Retention," asks the question: Does ethnicity make a difference on an individual's persistence in higher education?

**Jerry Rankin**, president of the Foreign Mission Board, delivered the William Carey College Lectures recently. Rankin led the service during which 48 engraved bricks were dedicated as a part of Carey's International Missions Plaza. In his challenge to those in attendance, Rankin said that involvement in missions means there is "a commitment to be made, a cost to be paid, and a compromise to evade. If the world is to be reached for Christ, it will be reached by people who are willing to give their lives to his will." A native of Tupelo, Rankin is a graduate of Mississippi College and Southwestern Seminary. Since 1993 Rankin has served as the president of the Foreign Mission Board.

**NEW ORLEANS (BP)** — The special trustee meeting Nov. 8-9 at New Orleans Seminary to elect a new president has been canceled as the nominee withdrew his name, according to Morris Anderson, trustee search committee chairman. **Fred L. Lowery**, pastor of First Church, Bossier City, La., has withdrawn his name from consideration and the search committee consequently has called off the special trustee meeting in New Orleans. Lowery, a trustee, was also vice chairman of the search committee.

**Officers elected by the Mississippi Luther Rice Alumni** for 1995-96 are Tom Stevens, pastor, Lena Church, Leake Association, president; Robert Perry, pastor, Macedonia Church, Lincoln Association, vice president; and Odus Jackson, pastor of Leesburg Church, Rankin Association, treasurer.

**NASHVILLE (BP)** — **Robert Wagoner** has been named to fill the newly created position of



Jason Craig was recently licensed to the preaching ministry by Woodville Heights Church, Jackson. Pictured with Craig is Wayne Kimbrough, pastor.



**Willis Carter**, now in his 90s, has been a member of Fredonia Church, New Albany, for approximately 80 years. He began serving as treasurer in 1965 and retired in October 1995. Carter has seen the church go from annual receipts of \$4,000 to over \$200,000. He was presented a plaque by Joe Haddon, pastor.

large-church/worship consultant in the Baptist Sunday School Board's Music Department. Wagoner, currently minister of music at Eagle Heights Church, Oklahoma City, will work with ministers of music in larger Southern Baptist churches, as well with all SBC churches in the areas of worship and growth, according to Mark Blankenship, director of the Music Department.



**Lyla Miller of Pearson Church, Pearl**, was honored on Oct. 1 for 35 years perfect attendance to Sunday School. Wayne Long, pastor, and Mark Jones, minister of education, presented her with an attendance pin and flowers.



**Ralph and Cora Joyce Davis** spent 35 years as missionaries in Nigeria and Ghana. They retired in 1985. On Nov. 18 they will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary at the Crawford House in Hattiesburg. The Davises have two children.

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MEMPHIS — David Raddin (left), pastor of First Church, Yazoo City, was recently installed as a trustee of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission during meetings Oct. 20-21 in Memphis. Raddin is welcomed by James D. Williams, president of the Brotherhood Commission. (Brotherhood photo by David Nester)

## Californians discover God during Billy Graham Sacramento Crusade

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Nearly 150 years after California Gold Rush pioneers discovered gold in this area, thousands of individuals "discovered God" during the five-day Greater Sacramento Billy Graham Crusade, which ended Sunday, Oct. 22.

Four consecutive record-breaking crowds averaging more than 29,600 overflowed the 17,000-seat Arco Arena and three outdoor venues each night, of which an average of nearly 2,000 per night came forward at Graham's invitation to make a commitment to Christ. Saturday's youth night attendance of 45,000 was two and one-half times the previous single-event record.

From the platform on opening night, California Governor Pete Wilson referred to Graham as a national and international treasure.

"Too many Americans are suffering from what I've often called a crisis of the human spirit," he said. "Fortunately there is a man who has made a difference;... — his name is Billy Graham."

In his sermon each night Graham addressed many of the issues facing America today. "We've heard a lot the last few days about atonement," he said. "Do you know that man cannot make atonement for his own sins? Nobody can make atonement for you except Christ. That's why he came — he made atonement on the cross."

Referring to other social problems including disease, poverty, war, hate, loneliness, unemployment, social injustice, and AIDS, Graham asked, "All these things are pushing in on us at a time when we ought to have a marvelous world of peace and love — What's wrong?"

"We see things that are changing and things that are not changing," he continued. "Fifty years ago the philosophical question among young people was, 'What's the truth?' Today the question is

"What is the point?"

On Saturday morning Psalty the Singing Songbook was joined by other colorful children's characters headlining a special Children's Crusade. A crowd of 17,100 youngsters and their parents filled the arena, of whom more than 2,000 responded by making a commitment to Christ.

On Saturday night, the crusade featured a youth special called, "Rock Your World," which combined high-energy music from DC Talk — described as musical missionaries to a lost generation — followed by biblical straight talk from Billy Graham as a caring adult.

Graham, who celebrated his 77th birthday on Nov. 7, plans to continue his intense schedule of across the U.S. and around the world in 1996, including crusades in Australia and New Zealand.

## Missionary News

**Kent and Erika Parks** have resigned from the Foreign Mission Board effective Nov. 30. They have served for eight years as missionaries in Indonesia. He is the son of Keith Parks, the Executive Director of Missions for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF). The Parks are seeking appointment with CBF and expect to be appointed in December to the Indonesia area.

**Donald and Rose McCain**, missionaries to Portugal, are on the field (address: Rua Dr. Renato Mansinho da Graca, 39, Porta Nova, 8800 Tavira, Portugal). He

was born in Greenville, and lived in several states while growing up. She is the former Rose McGarrh of Eupora.

**Robert and Janice Mooney**, missionaries to Uganda, are on the field (address: P.O. Box 1734, Kampala, Uganda). He was born in Marvell, Ark., and considers Jackson his hometown. The former Janice Anglin, she was born in Bogalusa, La., and considers Talisheek, La., her hometown.

**Danny and Leann Rollins**, missionaries to Brazil, have completed

language study and arrived on their field of service (address: Caixa Postal 24.144, 20522-970 Rio de Janeiro, Brazil). He was born in Memphis, and considers Olive Branch his hometown. She is the former Leann Crawford of Memphis.

**James and Charlotte Watts**, missionaries to Italy, are on the field (address: Loc. LeCoste, 7, 50066 Reggello, FI, Italy). Natives of Mississippi, both grew up in Pascagoula. He was born in Philipp, and she, the former Charlotte Lowe, in Carthage.

## Revival results

**North Winona (Montgomery):** Oct. 22-25; 17 professions of faith; Terry Long, pastor, evangelist; Clint and Jarvis Rose Nichols, Grenada, music.

**Carmel, Monticello:** Oct. 22-25; 11 professions of faith; Gary Bowlin, Brandon, evangelist; Ken Hedgepeth, Monticello, music; Ted Bowlin, pastor.

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## Uniform Grace on trial



By Andy Brasher  
Acts 15

Do you remember the old television series "Lost in Space"? When there was trouble, the robot would say, "Warning, warning! Danger, danger!" to alert the others of unseen peril.

Often, in the Christian community, unseen danger comes from within. This is invariably true when individuals or churches decide to stipulate conditions on the process of salvation. Let me mention a few equations of salvation as taught by other Christian denominations:

Some churches would have you believe that salvation hinges on or is derived from some arbitrary level of "good works." Yet, Ephesians 2:8-9 easily dispenses with that argument. Others suggest that baptism is a prerequisite for salvation. Romans 10:9-13 shows no favor in that interpretation.

Some brethren have made "speaking in tongues" a condition for salvation or spiritual perfection. The Bible makes no such claim. Even among Southern Baptists, I've heard some preachers ignorantly declare to their parishioners that one must experience a "real" salvation experience. I have often wondered who could judge such as thing, except God himself. Definitely, no preacher can!

The point is: salvation comes by grace through faith. There is no other condition or way. The Holy Spirit is imparted by God and received by those who profess total allegiance to his Son. That's it!

I'm afraid we've allowed the Evil One to confuse and distort the simplicity and majesty of salvation by grace and grace alone. In this week's lesson Paul, Peter, and Barnabas preach danger to those who would believe otherwise.

The Gentile conversions in the Antioch area attracted the attention of many Jewish believers in Judea. Several who had heard of the spiritual awakening of the Gentiles decided to travel to the area and teach a "conditioned" gospel. Their message was grace plus the administration of circumcision to all male Gentile believers. These Jews advocated compliance with the Law of Moses.

Paul and Barnabas rejected this claim and set out to Jerusalem to debate and discuss the issue with the apostles and elders in the Jerusalem church (vv. 1-2).

As the matter was brought before the ruling council of the church, presumably an ecclesiastical version of the Sanhedrin, Peter spoke first before the council. Obviously, Peter and James carried the theological weight in the early church. In his speech, Peter probably remembered his encounter with Cornelius at Caesarea. Peter believed that God had directed him to preach the gospel to the Gentiles.

After a moment of reflection, Peter declared, "And God, who knows the heart, bore witness to them, giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he did us; and he made no distinction between us and them, cleansing their hearts by faith."

In defense of the Gentile believers, Peter further said, "We believe that it was grace that saved us, and they believe it was grace that saved them. There was no need to test God concerning this matter, Peter argued (vv. 6-11).

As if they had been cued, Paul and Barnabas related to the council the miracles, signs, and wonders that had been witnessed among the Gentiles. The council remained silent as they listened intently to the duo (vv. 12).

Once the speeches had come to an end, James the brother of Christ and bishop of the Jerusalem church, spoke with authority on this subject. He declared that the Gentiles had every right to experience God's grace as the Jews did. He substantiated his argument by quoting from the book of Amos where it says, "In order that the rest of mankind may seek the Lord, and all the Gentiles, who are called by my name" (vv. 13-18).

Brasher is pastor of Como Church, Como.

## Bible Book Correcting injustice



By Larry McDonald  
Nehemiah 5

Kay Arvin told the story of the day after Christmas when a man named Mr. Greene parked his car near a store to pick up a morning paper. He noticed a dirty, poorly dressed boy, looking at his car. Seeing the boy eyeing the car, he reminded himself to be quick or he might be missing a hubcap when he returned.

He came out of the store with his paper under his arm and just as he opened the door to the car, the boy asked, "Mister, how much would a new car like this cost?"

Mr. Greene responded, "I really don't know; my brother gave me this car as a gift." The ragged little boy looked unbelievably at the car and then, with a look of wonder in his eyes, said, "Gee, I wish I could be a brother like that."

Nehemiah wished that sentiment had been prevalent during the economic crisis that gripped his people. During the rebuilding of the wall around Jerusalem, a famine caused poverty which led brothers to not act as brothers. In fact, exploitation of the poor became the way of life for many (vv. 1-5).

There were three groups affected by the economic crisis. First were the landless. They were short of food (v. 2). Second were the landowners. They were forced to mortgage their properties for food (vv. 3). Third were those forced to borrow money at exorbitant rates and sell their children into slavery so they could pay taxes and eat (vv. 4-5).

When Nehemiah heard the outcry of the people he was "very angry" (vv. 6-8). This anger moved him to call attention to the injustice of the situation. He called together a large meeting to address the abuses. His message confronted the lending of money to other Jews with interest (usury). This was forbidden by the Old Testament Law (Ex. 22:25-27; Lev. 25:36; Deut. 23:20). When a person exploits another during a time of difficulty, this is greed at its worst.

After confronting the problem, Nehemiah sought to correct the injustice (vv. 11-12a). He instructed the people to give back to the poor their fields, vineyard, olive groves, houses, and the interest that had been charged. The people heard Nehemiah's message and said, "We will give it back."

As a leader, Nehemiah knew the importance of setting an example for others (v. 14). As governor, Nehemiah was entitled to certain provisions of food and wealth. But Nehemiah sacrificed even what was normally his in order to serve as an example to the people. In spite of this economic crisis, the wall around Jerusalem was completed in 52 days (6:15).

We are often like the man who told his wife about passing a woman in a downpour of rain one afternoon. She had a flat tire and was standing helpless by the side of her car.

"I thought to myself," he said, "how awful it is of people not to help such a poor woman. I would have stopped if I were not on my way to work."

Or maybe we see ourselves in the following anonymous writing:

I was hungry and you formed a humanities club and discussed my hunger.  
I was imprisoned and you crept off quietly to your chapel and prayed for my release.  
I was naked and in your mind you debated the morality of my appearance.  
I was sick and you knelt and thanked God for your health.  
I was homeless and you preached to me of the spiritual shelter of the love of God.  
I was lonely and you left me alone to pray for me.  
You seem so close to God; but I am still very hungry, and lonely, and cold.

McDonald is pastor of Castlewoods Church, Brandon.

## Life and Work Profile in loyalty



By Bob Rogers  
Ruth 1, 2, 4

Ruth, the only book in the Bible other than Esther to be named for a woman, is one of the most captivating short stories in Scripture.

The central figure of the book is actually Naomi, Ruth's mother-in-law, and the theme of the book is how Naomi's emptiness was filled by the love and loyalty of Ruth and Boaz.

Set "in the days when the judges ruled" lets us know that the events took place during the difficult days before Israel had a king (about the 11th-14th centuries B.C.). It was a time of economic hardship, immorality, and oppression of the Israelites by their foreign neighbors.

Because "there was a famine in the land" (1:1) Naomi's family moved east across the Jordan River and down the King's Highway to the land of Moab, east of the Dead Sea.

Everything that could go wrong went wrong for Naomi. Her husband Elimelech died, and her sons married foreign Moabite women, Orpah and Ruth. Then Naomi's sons died, and she was left with no family in a foreign land (1:1-5).

Naomi heard that things were better in Israel, so she decided to go home. When Ruth clung to her, Naomi encouraged her to stick with her own family and gods just as Orpah had done (1:11-15).

Ruth's ensuing words of loyalty are frequently quoted at weddings: "Where you go, I will go, and where you stay, I will stay. Your people will be my people, and your God my God" (1:16).

Ruth's loyalty was not only to her mother-in-law, but also to the Lord, the God of Israel. She left behind the pagan religion of the Moabites who worshiped Chemosh, the god of war (Judges 11:24), and Astarte, the goddess of fertility.

So Ruth arrived with Naomi in Bethlehem "as the barley harvest was beginning" (1:22). This last fact set the stage for the "kinsman-redeemer."

Hebrew law in Leviticus 25, Numbers 35, and Deuteronomy 25, said that the *goel* (goh AYL), usually translated "kinsman-redeemer," was a relative who was duty-bound to come to the rescue of a relative in trouble, whether it meant revenging his murder, saving his property, or marrying his widow. Thus Ruth 2:1 says, "Now Naomi had a relative on her husband's side... whose name was Boaz."

Ruth went to gather leftover grain in the field of Boaz. The law of Moses said that farmers were to leave grain for the poor and aliens to glean (Lev. 19:9-10). Boaz noticed Ruth, and when he found out why she had come, he praised Ruth for her loyalty to Naomi and for choosing to follow "the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge" (2:12).

When Naomi found out about Boaz, she praised the Lord and explained to Ruth that "that man is our close relative; he is one of our kinsman-redeemers" (2:20). Sure enough, Boaz became their *goel*, and married Ruth (4:1-13).

The story ends with Naomi regaining everything she had lost, plus a grandchild. The women of Bethlehem gathered around Naomi and exclaimed, "Praise be to the Lord, who this day has not left you without a kinsman-redeemer" (4:14).

The punch line to the story comes in verse 17, when it is revealed that the baby's name was Obed, who was the father of Jesse, who was the father of King David. Because Ruth and Boaz chose to do what was right, they became the ancestors of Israel's greatest king.

Just as God brought a kinsman-redeemer to Naomi, he also brought David to the rescue of Israel, and through Jesus Christ, the "son of David" (Matt. 1:1), God brought salvation to all people.

### Questions to consider:

How does it feel to move to a new place? How does it feel to be a new Christian or join a new church? How has God helped you find courage to make these changes? How can God use you to help others in times of hardship and change?

Rogers is pastor of First Church, Poplarville.



# capsules

**NEW DISNEY HOMOSEXUAL POLICY DRAWS PROTESTS IN FLORIDA:** JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (BP) — The president of the Florida Convention and 15 Florida state legislators have added their protests to a Walt Disney Co. decision to provide health care insurance for live-in partners of homosexual employees. In a letter to Michael Eisner and the board of Walt Disney World in Orlando, Ken Whitten, the state convention's president and pastor of Idlewild Church in Tampa, said, "In a day where millions are searching for wholesome, clean, safe, and family-filled activities, your enterprise, that for years has stood for moral values and family traditions, has caved in to 'political correctness.' While others may applaud your 'courageous' actions, there is a God in heaven who looks down with disdain; and true ethics reminds us the question is not 'Does it work?' but the real question is 'Is it right?' It is not, nor will it ever be, right to redefine the family as God has ordained." Whitten also told Eisner, "There are a million Florida Baptist residents who have been watching with great interest where the Disney Corporation is going. With your apparent endorsement of 'gay days' and anti-family films under such labels as Miramax, we believe the conscience of Walt Disney has been silenced; and we can no longer be silent, but we appeal to you to reconsider such devastating policies."

**CAMPBELL UNIVERSITY ESTABLISHES DIVINITY SCHOOL:** Campbell University announced today the establishment of a divinity school to be located on the Buies Creek campus. Students will enroll for the charter class in August 1997, with the availability of limited courses in August 1996. The announcement was made by Norman A. Wiggins, president of Campbell University, at the Baptist Building, 205 Convention Drive, Cary, N.C. Baptist leaders from across the state joined trustees, faculty, alumni, and North Carolina State Convention employees for the announcement and luncheon.

**HOUSE VOTES TO PROHIBIT PARTIAL BIRTH ABORTIONS:** WASHINGTON (BP) — The House of Representatives overwhelmingly approved the Partial-birth Abortion Ban Act recently, marking the first time in nearly 23 years it has banned a type of abortion. The 288-139 vote Nov. 1 was the only time either house of Congress has passed legislation prohibiting an abortion procedure since the U.S. Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton* decisions of 1973. The bill outlaws a procedure used by apparently a limited number of doctors in the second half of pregnancy. The technique, named "partial-birth" by the bill's sponsors but usually known as dilation and extraction (D and X), involves partial delivery of the unborn child before his or her skull is stabbed with scissors and the brain suctioned out. Supporters of the bill had expected to win comfortably in the House, but the legislation's future in the Senate is less certain. Sen. Robert Smith, R.-N.H., has introduced a similar bill (S. 939) on that side. President Bill Clinton, meanwhile, has not committed himself on the measure.

**PROMISE KEEPERS AND '95 SEASON WITH NEARLY 60,000 IN DALLAS:** IRVING, Texas (BP) — Gate counters registered 59,658 men jammed into Texas Stadium in the Dallas suburb of Irving. Many Southern Baptist men joined with men of other denominations and heard Tony Evans, a Dallas pastor and prominent Promise Keepers speaker, proclaim, "Our churches have too many members! What our churches need is disciples!" Promise Keepers held 13 conferences in 1995. Eleven were sold out. The organization anticipated 725,000 men paying \$55 each to hear biblical messages like: Don't cheat on your wives; Kiss your kids; Read your Bible; and Go ahead and wear witness T-shirts in public that say, "Real men love Jesus!" The PK organization drew 4,200 men in 1991 at a University of Colorado rally, 278,000 for events in 1994. The budget for the organization has doubled every six months.

## Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx  
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This week's clue: I equals D.

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Micah Six: Eight.

# Evangelism campaign in Spain brings salvations, mini-revival

MADRID, Spain (BP) — More than 100 people committed their lives to Christ during a 13-day evangelism campaign in Spain involving 105 Southern Baptist volunteers from several states.

That number is more significant than it first appears in a country where "many of our churches for months don't see one hand raised of a person accepting Christ," said Jos Carmet, director of missions and evangelism for the Spanish Baptist Union.

The campaign, which ended Oct. 23, also left Spanish Baptist

churches with an increased zeal for evangelism.

"We had revival in most of the churches and some 100 to 150 professions of faith," said Larry Henry, the missionary who administers Foreign Mission Board work in Spain. "The team members, Spanish churches, pastors and missionaries are very satisfied with the results."

"From 3,000 to 4,000 people heard the gospel for the first time," Carmet said during a closing victory dinner in Madrid. "We distributed between 260,000 and 300,000 tracts and passed out 26,000 gospels and a

thousand Bibles."

Among Spain's 40 million people, Baptists number only about 8,000 and evangelicals of all kinds about 70,000. Eighty percent to 90% of Spaniards are Roman Catholics, but missionaries say only about one in four ever attends a worship service. Spanish Baptist leaders insist Spain is one of Europe's major mission fields.

During the campaign, volunteers worked in 26 teams across Spain and the Canary Islands. Team members preached, sang, taught, visited in homes and institutions, and handed out tracts and other materials.

The campaign also included a series of concerts by American gospel singer Willa Dorsey and pianist Martin Cuellar, piano professor at William Carey College in Hattiesburg. Fifty people made spiritual decisions of one kind or another after the concerts alone, said W.H. "Dub" Jackson, Foreign Mission Board crusade coordinator for Western Europe. In one city a communist mayor attended a concert.

A team in Bilbao, a city on Spain's northern coast, distributed New Testaments to officers at a police station.

James and Edwina Jennings of First Church, Woodbury, Tenn., served in Vitoria, where they worked with a mission group now meeting in a home. Mrs. Jennings, a veteran of partnership evangelism in 15 countries, said the evangelism needs in Spain "were the greatest I've ever seen."

Jackson is seeking participants in several campaigns in Western Europe during 1996 and 1997. These are: Norway, Oct. 9-22, 1996; Sweden, Oct. 16-28, 1996; Italy, Oct. 30-Nov. 12, 1996; France, May 21-June 3, 1997. The France campaign calls for 500 Southern Baptists, the largest such effort ever held in Western Europe, Jackson said. Interested people should contact the Foreign Mission Board at (800) 888-8657.



## LifeAnswers

Ron Mumbower, Ph.D.  
Minister of Counseling  
First Church, Jackson

As the holiday season approaches, we should pray for those who mourn loved ones during this special time of the year. I recently received this and want to pass it along. It was written over 50 years ago by Elsie Robinson, a columnist for the *Chicago-American* newspaper. There is no match for the heartache caused by the loss of a child.

God, all night long I miss him.  
Lying half-asleep, my conscious memory lost.

I wonder if he tossed the blankets off.  
Or if the rain is blowing on his sill.

Or if he's ill — my baby.  
And often waking, I find myself by his bed,

Stooping to kiss the little tousled head that is no longer there.  
I stand and stare with streaming eyes.

At that smooth pillow and unruffled spread.  
Remembering slowly, that my son is dead.

All day long I listen for his step,  
His whistle, and his sweet uncertain song.  
I listen until the silence tightens 'round my throat.  
Oh God, you know I'd give my life to hear his voice again.  
To feel once more the touch of his young, eager hand.  
To stand and watch him play,  
And feel the pride leap in me like a flame.  
I'd give my life, I say — and yet I wouldn't.  
I must stay right here and do my job, till I have  
earned the right to go away. The past has passed.  
I loved him — yes! But love is not a toy  
To satisfy one's private pride and joy.  
No — love's a part of that eternal plan  
By which God manifests himself to man.

And we who love must also dare to keep the faith  
When those we love are lost,  
Lest weaker spirits, watching, should cry out that love's not worth the cost.

And so, my Father, take my grief today as tribute to the glory you sent away.

I lay my little son within your arms, safe now, forever, from the hurt and harm  
He would have known, had he lived.  
I give him up. I drink the bitter cup reserved for those who dare to love and lose.  
Forgive our fears!  
There is a nobler duty facing us than tears.  
It is our proud and shining mission to express  
Love's real, abiding pride and loveliness.  
We, only, who have lost, can know that love is worth  
Whatever the cost.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.

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